

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated December 18, 2003, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

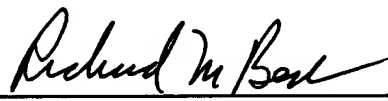
Claims 1-9 have been canceled and the rejection of these claims is thereby rendered moot. Specifically, the rejection of claims 1-9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is no longer applicable, and the prior art rejection of these claims is no longer an issue.

As noted in paragraph 3 in the outstanding Office Action, remaining claims 10-15 are directed to allowable subject matter and these claims would be allowable if a Terminal Disclaimer is filed. Such Terminal Disclaimer comprises a portion of this response, and the appropriate fee is included.

Accordingly, in view of these amendments and filings it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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